



# PACIFIC HORIZON

*Connecting Pacific Islander Communities in Utah*

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## **Message from the Director**

Since our last Pacific Horizon, the summer vacations have ended and schools have started up again. I have been following the Little League Football pretty closely and in practically every team in the valley I have seen a Pacific Islander. Every Saturday morning, parents are following their boys to their games and the sisters go along for the ride.

Pacific Islander parents are placing so much emphasis on the Little League Football, and these families are investing so much time, support, and money in it. The years that they are involved in this sport seem to be the most critical years in their education. I am wondering what kind of impact will happen if these Pacific Islander parents were willing to redirect this concentrated effort into tracking their boys in the two years that they are in Middle and Junior High Schools. How about if they allow them to play football through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and then pull them out for two years?

Something drastic seems to be happening to ethnic students during the two years that they are in the Middle and Junior High Schools. Historically, available data seems to substantiate that the great majority of ethnic students by the time they become a freshman in high school are already two years behind. No school district has really taken the time to conduct research to find out why this is happening to the ethnic students. Nevertheless, as I have watched the Pacific Islander parents' preoccupation with the involvement of their boys (some girls even!) in football, I am wishful that it was possible to redirect it to Education. Pacific Islanders are physically endowed for sports, and they can pick up football when they get to high school and still be successful!

Last year, I visited an alternative school program and I was surprised that there were not as many students as I had expected. When I had asked as to where the Pacific Islander students were, I was told that it was Football season. It did not quite register with me, and so I asked what they meant. I was informed that during the football season the high schools in the district picked up all the athletes because they needed them for their football program. Once the football season is over, you will find them back here, so they assured me.

Even church leaders are complaining that the children are not showing up to their youth programs during the week, and scouting continues to dwindle among Pacific Islanders. Perhaps, we should all take a good hard look at our priorities. Football is important, but how many are winning football scholarships to colleges? How many Pacific Islanders have actually gotten to the NFL from Utah?

Well, the football season is just about over and so keep warm everyone!

**READ WITH A CHILD**  
*How to Raise a  
Reader:*

Learning how to read is hard work for children. Fortunately, there are things we can do to help raise good readers. Reading with a child for 20 minutes every day dramatically improves their ability to read. Here are some simple things you can do to create a strong reader:

- Be fun & creative
- Ask questions as you read
- Relate stories to your child's life
- Re-read your child's favorite books
- Run your finger along the words as you read
- Let your child turn the pages
- Select stories that use repeated phrases
- Subscribe to a children's magazine
- Get a library card
- Ask your librarian for a recommended book list
- Fill your home with books
- Be a reading role model
- Tell stories to your child
- 

For more information about "Read with a Child," call the Governor's Literacy Commission at 1.886.782.8824

## **University of Utah and SLCC Welcome New Pacific Islander Advisors**

It is the beginning of yet another school year for our students. For Pacific Islander students up at the University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College, this school year has also brought fresh new faces ready and willing to assist them in their educational pursuits.

Feleti F. Matagi has assumed the title of Pacific Islander Administrative Program Coordinator up at the University of Utah. Under his new position, he will be responsible for academic advising, assisting in retention efforts, linking students to other resources available on campus, advocating for students and Pacific Islander issues, assisting in the recruitment of Pacific Islander students to the Univ. of Utah, and a hosts of other responsibilities. Feleti brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his position. Feleti graduated from the University of Utah with a Masters Degree in Social Work and has worked at Youth Corrections, Division Of Child and Family Services, and now at the University of Utah.

When he is not busy at work, Feleti can be found with his family, which is the most important thing to him. Feleti is Samoan and is the son of Tafilele Matagi & Tua Taeoali'i. He has one brother and three sisters. He is married to Eliza Ka'ili, a Tongan, daughter of Tevita and Lakalaka Ka'ili. They have three children: Sulia, Saione, and 'Ilaise.

Seini Pahulu is the new Pacific Islander Academic Advisor at the Salt Lake Community College. She will be working with all Pacific Islander students and will also be advising the Pacific Unity Association on campus. Seini received her BSW from BYU-Hawaii and her MSW from BYU-Provo. Prior to working at Salt Lake Community College, Seini was employed at Utah Valley State College as an Outreach Academic Advisor. Seini is excited to serve the Pacific Islander students and looks forward to assisting them to make a difference in our community by fulfilling their educational and career goals. In Seini's mind, education can never hinder success but only equips individuals to do something worthwhile in the great world of opportunity that lies ahead.

Family is also very important in Seini's life. Seini is Tongan and is the daughter of Molonai & Sitela Mu'amoholeva. She was raised in Provo, Utah and is the oldest of four children. Seini is married to Taniela Pahulu and they have two sons, Bruce and `Alani, with one more on the way! Seini enjoys traveling, being with family, and being a mother.

The University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College have certainly added great resources for our Pacific Islander students. Welcome aboard Feleti & Seini!!

## **Tahiti Heiva Solo Competition 2004**

The 2004 Tahiti Heiva Solo Competition was held August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Greek Orthodox Church in downtown Salt Lake City. The competition included freestyle dancing, where each dancer performed to the beat of the drums unrehearsed. They were judged



**1<sup>st</sup>  
Tahiti Heiva I  
Utah**

**August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>,  
2005**

**For more  
information visit  
[www.tahitiheiva.org](http://www.tahitiheiva.org)**

**Participating Schools  
October  
Pacific Islander  
Month**

~~~~~  
**Backman Elementary**

**Hillfield Elementary**

**Lincoln Elementary**

**Millcreek Elementary**

**North Star  
Elementary**

**South Jordan  
Elementary**

**St. Olaf 's Private  
School**

**Glendale Middle  
School – Salt Lake**

**Fossil Ridge Middle  
School – St. George**

on creativity, skill, and timing. Merehau Kamai who is also involved in creating Utah's 1<sup>st</sup> Tahiti Heiva I Utah, organized the competition. The Heiva is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. For more information visit [www.tahitiheiva.org](http://www.tahitiheiva.org). Join us in making this event a success for all.



Young participant of the boys solo  
competition

The winners of the Solo Competition included: **Girls Ages 6-9 Winners:** 1st place - Lynnette Kirchiro, 2nd place - Alexis Tamamasui, 3rd place - Lavinia T. Brown **Girls Ages 10-12 Winners:** 1st place - Tatiana Brown, 2nd place - Martha Haiol, 3rd place - Christina Hosea **Boys Ages 6-9 Winner:** 1st place - Kingston Matagi **Boys Ages 10-12 Winners:** 1st place - Seleti Kirchiro, 2nd place - Tre Ofahenguae **Girls Ages 13-17 Winners:** 1st place - Dianne Kirchiro, 2nd place - Nyoka Lavhio, 3rd place - Ashley AhQuin **Girls Ages 18-25 Winners:** 1st place - Leilani San Nicolas-Rin, 2nd place - Taina Kamai, 3rd place - Lori Karen

## **Pacific Islander Culture Month**

Prior to this year, the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission, in its Adopt-A-School Program, had earmarked May as the Asian and Pacific Islander month. This year, the Director of Pacific Islander Affairs approached the commission and requested that a separate month should be dedicated for Pacific Islanders. After a lot of coordination with the MLK Program Manager, October 2004 was officially declared as the Pacific Islander month. Volunteers were invited from the Pacific Islander community to educate elementary and middle school students about the Pacific Islander culture.

A total of nine schools were chosen by the Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and Pacific Islander presenters took advantage of the opportunity to educate their young friends about the island cultures.

The range of issues covered by presenters varied from their own personal experiences as Pacific Islanders in Utah, to fun historical facts about the Pacific Islander culture. Song, dance, & games were also used to keep the attention of students while educating them at the same time. Students were also introduced to basic Polynesian words such as love, peace, understanding, and respect. The feedback from school administrators and the students have definitely been positive. Michael Styles, Program Manager for the Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission is excited about next year and is already planning to increase the number of schools that would be participating in this program during Pacific Islander Month.



## CONGRATULATIONS

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The Utah Association of Bilingual Educators has named Anna Lolohea, the Volunteer and After School Program Coordinator at Mountain View Elementary, the Community Member of the Year.  
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### CO-SPONSORS

#### PICCN

“Walk For Life & Five A Day – The Pacific Way”

Utah Department of Health

Salt Lake Valley Health Department

American Cancer Society

Salt Lake Utah (Tongan) Stake

Cannon 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

Granger 8<sup>th</sup> Ward

Liberty 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

Pioneer Ward

West Valley 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

Vaiola (Samoan) Ward

Heriatge 11<sup>th</sup> (Samoan) Ward

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in Utah

The success of Pacific Islander Culture month would not have been possible were it not for the volunteers who agreed to present. Many thanks, “malo `aupito” and “fa`afetai tele” go to Bishop Folafolaga & Nancy Avei, Malia Parkhurst, Kawehi Au, Lisia & John Satini, Anela Kalaiwaa, and Eveni Tafiti and the Weber State Polynesian Club for their time and efforts in making Pacific Islander Culture month a success in it's very first year!

## “Walk For Life & Five A Day The Pacific Way”

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network (PICCN) sponsored a community cancer outreach event. More than 300 Tongans and Samoans gathered at Liberty Park to participate in the very first health-walk. The sight was definitely one worth seeing as participants, ranging from infants to the elderly, eagerly made their way around the park.

Bishop Gilbert Tavita of the Heritage 11<sup>th</sup> Samoan Ward and Bishop Folafolaga Avei of the Vaiola Samoan Ward showed up with a total of seventy-one (71) of their wards' members. Reverend Malakai Samate, with the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, brought 10 members of their congregation. Bishop Supilani Ma`ilei came with 36, Bishop Alelea`anga Moli of Granger 8<sup>th</sup> Ward brought 35, Bishop Latu Heimuli of the Cannon 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward came with 23, 23 from the West Valley 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Bishop Nolisi Lavulo brought 17 from the Pioneer Ward.



PICCN used this cancer awareness activity as a fund-raising event for the Boy Scouts, with each scout troop given \$5 for every participant they had brought from their church groups to participate in the walk. The Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network had initially made the age of 18 the limit, but at the event it was extended to include 10 years of age, feeling that it was equally important that our children be made aware of cancer at an early age. In an effort to also emphasize the importance for Pacific Islanders to eat the right food as part of the “Five A Day” (fruits & vegetables) program, apples, pears, and bananas were readily available for all the families that participated in the event to take home.

For those who missed out on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the good news is that the Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network is planning another similar event for Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The event will be held indoors due to the weather. The time and venue for the event will be announced soon. For more information on the Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network, call (801) 538-8691.

## Participants of the "Walk For Life & Five A Day – The Pacific way" Event

Mutual Self-Help  
Housing Program for  
Low Income Families

Rural Housing  
Development Corp.

The Mutual Self-Help Housing Program is a "sweat equity" program that allows groups of individuals and families build each other's homes using a USDA-RD mortgage. RHDC is currently accepting applications from persons/families interested in living in Payson, Salem, Santaquin or other Utah County areas.

### Who Can Participate?

- Persons must qualify for a USDA-Rural Development 502 Mortgage and be willing to provide the labor necessary to complete their homes.
- Applicants must also fit within the HUD income guidelines.

### How much money can a family save?

The cost of a new home can be reduced by about 15% to 25% because the families are contributing their own construction labor rather than hiring others.

### Where to Apply?

Obtain an application or apply in person at 815 S. Freedom Blvd., Suite 303, Provo, UT 84601. For more info. Call Brad Bishop to





set up an  
appointment at  
(801) 375.2205

### UTAH'S JOB CONNECTION

Having difficulty finding a job with your current skills? The Dept. of Workforce Services may be able to help with the cost of training to increase your skills!!

- Training opportunities include: Short-Term Training, Classroom Training that leads to a certificate or degree, and On-the-Job Training with an employer who is willing to help you learn new skills
- Orientation sessions are conducted at your local DWS Employment Center
- No appointment is needed to attend an orientation session; seating is available on a limited basis; arrive 30 minutes early for a brief interview with an Employment Counselor

### **ORIENTATION SESSION TIMES & LOCATIONS**

**South County**  
5735 S. Redwood Rd.  
269.4700  
Monday's @ 9 a.m.

**Metro Area**  
720 S. 200 E.  
536.7000  
Tuesday's @ 2 p.m.

**Downtown Area**  
158 S. 200 W.  
524.9000  
Wednesday's @ 9 a.m.

**West Valley Area**  
2750 S. 5600 W.

## **Four Council Members Recognized for Service to Community**

The Office and the Pacific Islander Advisory Council took the occasion of the Pacific Islander Advisory Council's monthly meeting to honor and thank four members who had completed their terms of office. This was held at a dinner meeting, which was held at the Golden Phoenix Restaurant on Wednesday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup> where these members were invited to with their spouses.

The Governor initially appointed **Charlene Lui of Orem, Utah** to the Council on November 30, 1995. She had served a full two consecutive terms as a Hawaiian representative, and has been on the council for a total of nine years.

**Celeste Tonga of Ogden, Utah** started her appointment on the Pacific Islander Advisory Council on July 19, 1999 as a representative for the Maori/New Zealand community. She tendered her resignation after seven years because of other commitments.

**Tevita Supilani Ma`ilei of Salt Lake, Utah** was also appointed on July 19, 1999 as a Tongan representative. He was Vice-Chair of the Council for three years between 2000 and 2003. He is leaving the Council after five years of very active service.

**Mitzie Jessop Folau of Salt Lake, Utah** joined the Council on July 15, 2003 as a Samoan representative. During 2004, she served as Vice-Chair. At the expiration of the term that she was serving, Mitzie chose not to renew for another term.

In presenting plaques of appreciation to these Council members, the Director thanked them on behalf of the Governor of Utah and State Government for their dedicated service to the Pacific Islander communities. He reminded them that the needs of Pacific Islanders in Utah is very large and that they should continue to be proactive in their respective communities to help our people.

## **PACIFIC ISLANDER 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS LITERACY RECOGNITION**

Right after Governor Olene Walker's inauguration, she called a meeting for all the Ethnic Directors and announced her desires that the GIFT Conferences continue to focus on Education, but with a focus on Literacy. She convened Literacy Advisory Council and they launched the Summer Reading Program with the slogan "Read 20 Minutes A Day".

The summer has long gone and our children have returned to another school year, but we were never able to monitor how much and how well Pacific Islander young children had participated in the literacy program. A Literacy Recognition Forum has therefore been organized to recognize Pacific Islanders in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade who are doing well in their reading. This has been scheduled for Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2004.

All the school districts and the elementary schools are now being contacted to provide nominations of Pacific Islander 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to be recognized and presented awards.

840.4400  
Thursday's @ 11 a.m.  
& 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday's of  
month at 6 p.m.

**Tutors  
Needed  
No  
Experience  
Necessary!!**

People 45 years of age or older interested in tutoring children who are struggling with reading, writing, math or spelling are definitely in need. Develop a positive relationship with children while tutoring them once or twice a week. Training is provided. If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a volunteer in the Bridges Program, call Cathy Hashimoto at (801) 468-2188. Make a difference in a child's life and who knows? It might make a difference in yours!

## Community in Action



Portrait of Governor Olene Walker and King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV during royal visit



Tongan Community Leaders presenting Royal Gift of Tapa to Governor Olene Walker



Police Officers recognized during the Friendly Island Festival with Chief Dinse-Photo courtesy of 'Anapesi Ka'ili



Richard Wolfgramm & 'Ivoni Nash in from of NTAS Headquarters



'Ivoni Nash, Edith Mitko, & Fahina Pasi at the NTAS Open House - Photo courtesy of 'Anapesi Ka'ili



Community members supporting the National Tongan American Society Open House - Photo courtesy of 'Anapesi



Bill Afeaki with students at Hillfield Elementary during MLK Pacific Islander Month



Eveni Tafiti, his son Adam, and Wesley Amosa at Lincoln Elementary During MLK Pacific Islander Month

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State Office of Pacific Islander Affairs  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84111

## **Pacific Islander Advisory Council Vacancies**

We are continuing to have vacancies for a Native Hawaiian and a Maori/New Zealand representative as gubernatorial appointments to the Pacific Islander Advisory Council.

These appointments are not paid posts but offer great opportunities to serve one's island community, the Pacific Islander communities of Utah at large, and also the citizens of Utah. Appointees to the Advisory Council become the "eyes and ears" of the Governor, and their prime responsibilities are to bring recommendations to make all state agencies, departments, programs and projects more sensitive to the needs of Pacific Islanders in Utah.

For additional information, please contact us at the office by telephone or e-mail. If you are interested, please submit your resume.

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
BILL GATES MILLENIUM SCHOLARSHIPS  
IS MOVED UP TO JANUARY 2005.  
DO NOT MISS THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR HIGH  
SCHOOL SENIOR STUDENTS.**



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